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—AP WIREPHOTO
CLYDE JOHNSON

Charges Pend In Slaying of La. 'Candidate'

GREENSBURG, La. (AP) — Sheriff R. G. Bridges planned to confer today with Dist. Atty. Duncan S. Kemp about the shotgun slaying of Clyde Johnson, who often announced his candidacy for political office but never actually ran in an election.

Johnson, 37, a lay preacher and onetime merchant, was killed yesterday by a blast from a 12-gauge shotgun.

Ralph McMillan was arrested by the sheriff.

Bridges said McMillan was held in St. Helena Parish Jail here on an open charge pending his consultation with the district attorney.

JOHNSON was fatally wounded on the doorstep of McMillan's home about 10 miles north of Greensburg. Bridges said Johnson died about 30 minutes later, just as an ambulance arrived.

McMillan's brother, F. E. McMillan, was Johnson's announced candidate for lieutenant governor six years ago when Johnson said he was seeking the Democratic nomination for governor.

Bridges said Mrs. Johnson is McMillan's second cousin and also a first cousin of Mrs. Ralph McMillan.

Funeral services for Johnson were set for tomorrow.

HE FIRST attracted notice in 1963 when he was thrown out of the state AFL-CIO convention at Baton Rouge after attempting to make an unscheduled political speech.

He campaigned around the state but when the Sept. 14 deadline for qualifying passed Johnson's papers hadn't been filed.

He claimed shortly afterward that the papers were in his auto when he had a wreck the day before the deadline. They couldn't be found, he said, and the attorney he had asked to bring a new set to his West Monroe hospital bed failed to appear.

IN 1964 Johnson announced he would seek the nomination for the U.S. House seat from the state's 6th Congressional District. Before the qualifying deadline he said a fire had destroyed his Greensburg store and he didn't have enough money to campaign.

A year later Johnson said he would be a candidate for U.S. Senate. He failed to qualify, however. He also vowed he would seek the Democratic nomination for president.

A native of Jackson, Miss., Johnson had listed Greensburg or Kentwood as his residence over the years. The sheriff said, however, that for the past several weeks he and his family had been living in a house trailer near the Ralph McMillan home.

JOHNSON was subpenaed by Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison to appear before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury in 1967 after he claimed knowledge of the conspiracy which the district attorney claimed led to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

A few days before Clay L. Shaw, accused by Garrison of plotting Kennedy's death, went on trial in New Orleans last January, Johnson held a news conference in that city and said, I'm the ace-in-the-hole in Garrison's case."

The next day police said Johnson was jailed on a charge of refusing to pay a $162.49 bill at the Roosevelt Hotel, site of the news conference.

Shaw was acquitted. Johnson did not appear as a witness.

Survivors include his widow, one daughter and his mother.